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Message Text

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70
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /082 W
---------- 033686
R 121518Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1925
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD POUCH
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4856

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EG
SUBJECT: ASU "NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE UNIONIST GROUP" (LEFTIST) AND
EGYPTIAN NASSERISTS

REF: (A) CAIRO 4513 (B) CAIRO 4734

SUMMARY.. LEFTIST ASU POLITICAL GROUP "NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE UNIONISTS"

MET APRIL 10 TO ESTABLISH TEMPORARY SECRETARIAT. NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE UNIONIST LEADER MUHI AL-DIN INTERVIEW IN IRAQI NEWSPAPER, CRITICIZING ABROGATION OF SOVIET-EGYPTIAN TREATY, ATTACKED TWO-DAYS RUNNING IN AKHBAR. ROSE AL-YUSUF REPORTS THAT ASU NASSERIST GROUP HOPING TO FORM FOURTH ASU "ORGANIZATION" AND HAS RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM ASU FIRST SECRETARY MAHGUB TO THIS EFFECT, ALTHOUGH MAHGUB MAY HAVE GIVEN ASSURANCES WITHOUT HIGH-LEVEL APPROVAL. END SUMMARY..

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1. LOCAL PRESS APRIL 11 REPORTED THAT LEFTIST "NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE

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UNIONIST GROUP" (ONE OF THREE NEWLY CREATED ASU "ORGANIZATIONS") HAD MET PREVIOUS DAY, UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF RAPPORTEUR, EGYPTIAN MARXIST KHALID MUHI AL-DIN, TO FORM NEW PROVISIONAL SECRETARIAT. MEETING WAS REPORTEDLY ADDRESSED BY MUHI AL-DIN AND ASU FIRST SECRETARY DR. MAHGUB.

2.MOST PROMINENT MEMBERS OF NEW PROVISIONAL SECRETARIAT INCLUDE PROMINENT EGYPTIAN MARXISTS: FORMER MINSTATE YAHYA KAMAL; FORMER MINAGRIC DR. MUSTAFA AL-GABALI; FORMER MINPLANNING DR. ISMA'IL SABRI' ABDALLAH; ROSE AL-YUSUF CHAIRMAN 'ABD AL-RAHMAN SHARQAWI; FORMER PRESIDENT OF EGYPTIAN BAR ASSOCIATION AHMAD AL-KHAWAGA; TALI'A EDITOR LUTFI AL-KHULI; MUHAMMAD 'AWDHA OF ROSE AL-YUSUF; SECRETARY OF EGYPTIAN PRESS SYNDICATE MAHMUD AL-MARAGHI; LEADER OF COMMERCE WORKERS UNION FATHI MAHMUD; AND FORMER DEAN OF ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF ARTS DR. MUHAMMAD AHMAD KHALAFALLAH, IN ALL, SECRETARIAT INCLUDES 39 INDIVIDUALS.

3. RIGHTIST DAILY AKHBAR AL-YOM APRIL 10 REPORTS ON INTERVIEW GIVEN BY MUHI AL-DIN TO IRAQI NEWSPAPER TARIQ AL-SHA'AB IN WHICH NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE LEADER DECLARED THAT ABROGATION OF FRIENDSHIP TREATY WITH SOVIET UNION NEITHER IN PRESENT NOR FUTURE INTEREST OF EGYPT. MUHI AL-DIN ALSO DENOUNCED "OPEN DOOR" AND REJECTED ANY "AMERICAN SOLUTION" TO ME PROBLEM. IN EDITORIAL RETORT AT END OF ARTICLE, AKHBAR AL-YOM COMMENTS THAT MUHI AL-DIN COULD BETTER EXPLAIN TERMINATION OF FRIENDSHIP TREATY AS RESULT OF SOVIET STAND ON ARMS AND DEBT-RESCHEDULING ISSUES AND CHARGES THAT SUCH SPREADING OF FALSE RUMORS AGAINST EGYPT ONLY ISOLATES CAIRO FROM REST OF ARAB WORLD.

4. IN APRIL 11 EDITION OF AKHBAR, MUSA SABRI TAKES UP CUDGEL AGAINST MUHI AL-DIN STATEMENTS. SABRI CHARGES THAT, IN COMMENTS TO IRAQI PAPER, MUHI AL-DIN CONTRADICTED STATEMENTS HE HAD MADE IN ASU CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING IN MARCH ATTENDED BY PRESIDENT SADAT. IN ASU MEETING, MUHI AL-DIN HAD STATED THAT, ALTHOUGH HE MARXIST-LENINIST, HE PUT EGYPTIAN INTERESTS BEFORE IDEOLOGY. NOW, ASKS SABRI, WHERE DOES MUHI AL-DIN STAND: WITH EGYPTIAN PEOPLES ASSEMBLY WHICH REPUDIATED SOVIET REATY IN NAME OF EGYPTIAN PEOPLE, OR WITH TASS AGENCY, WHICH WELCOMED MUHI AL-DIN COMMENTS AGAINST TREATY ABROGATION?
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5. PRO-SOVIET WEEKLY ROSE AL-YUSUF APRIL 11 STATES THAT ASU NASSERISTS GROUP (OF WHICH KAMAL AHMAD INCREASINGLY MOST PROMINENT SPOKESMAN) WILL NOT JOIN NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE UNIONIST GROUP OF KHALID MUHI AL-DIN. INSTEAD, ARTICLE STATES, AHMAD HAS RECEIVED PERMISSION FROM FIRST SECRETARY MAHGUB TO PROCEED WITH PLANS TO FORM FOURTH "ORGANIZATION" WITHIN ASU, ALTHOUGH GROUPING CANNOT BE CALLED NASSERIST, AS MANY INDIVIDUALS IN OTHER "ORGANIZATIONS"

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ALSO CONSIDER THEMSELVES "NASSERISTS". ROSE AL-YUSUF ARTICLE ALSO STATES
THAT ASU CENTRAL COMMITTEE WILL HAVE TO APPROVE NEW "ORGANIZATION" BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF ANY ACTIVE ORGANIZING.

6. MINSTATE FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS ALBERT BARSOUM INFORMED AMBASSADOR APRIL 11 THAT ALL FORUMS ARE HAVING SOME DIFFICULTY WITH ORGANIZATIONAL PROBLEMS. HE CONFIRMED KAMAL AHMAD AND NASSERISTS HAD OBTAINED ASU SYG RIFAAT MAHGUB'S SUPPORT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE ORGANIZATION. BARSOUM NOTED PRIMIN'S OPPOSITION THERETO AND OPINED IN THE END NASSERISTS WILLHAVE TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE AS AN INFORMAL GROUPING.

7. COMMENT: AS EMBASSY HAS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, MUHI AL-DIN, DESPITE HIS DIFFERENCES WITH GOE ON SOVIET TREATY IS GOVERNMENT CANDIDATE FOR LEADERSHIP OF LEFTIST "ORGANIZATION" AND AHMAD AND HIS NASSERISTS WILL NOT GET ANY OFFICIAL SUPPORT FOR FORMATION OF FOURTH ASU GROUPING. IN FACT, AS HAPPENDED DURING ORIGIANL MAHGUB MIS-HANDLING OF "FORUMS" QUESTION DURING ABSENCE OF PRESIDENT SADAT IN OCTOBER 1975, MAHGUB MAY NOT HAVE HAD POLICY-LEVEL APPROVAL FOR HIS SEEMINGLY HASTY PROMISE OF SUPPORT OF A FOURTH "ORGANIZATION" FOR NASSERISTS GROUP.
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